

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize efforts in Northwest Ohio to celebrate the beginning of National Volunteer Week in America. It is very hard to imagine our country without its corps of ready, willing and able volunteers. So strong and proud is America's history of volunteerism, that the concept and nature of "American Volunteerism" has become an institution by which the world recognizes and understands our national identity of compassion and caring for our fellow humankind.

Has there ever been a time in our history that there were not volunteers ready to lend a hand? Beginning with Paul Revere and extending right through to the response of emergency and medical personnel to last week's tragedy in Oklahoma—Americans have always been ready to help their fellow citizens.

While volunteerism in America does not always manifest itself in terms as dramatic as when every available doctor and nurse within a 100-mile radius and beyond rushes to the scene of a tragedy, it is no more important or devoted than the millions of Americans who respond daily and regularly to the unsatisfied needs of their communities.

Here in our community, volunteers feed the hungry, shelter and minister to the homeless, reach out and touch minds that are eager to learn and spirits that yearn to fly. Even in the lives of those whose needs are not borne from necessity, but whose pursuits are dedicated toward service and improvement, volunteers make the day.

I know my colleagues join me in recognizing National Volunteer Week and in saying to every citizen in our community and country who works for a recompense that no amount of money can satisfy, thank you for answering the call, thank you for helping make our country a better place.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NEAL THOMAS JONES

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, my colleague and I rise today to pay tribute to a fine individual of the Eleventh District of Virginia, who has contributed so much to his community.

Dr. Neal Thomas Jones retired as pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia April 30, 1995 after twenty-six years of dedicated and faithful service. Under Dr. Jones' leadership, the congregation became

one of the largest congregations of any faith in Virginia and a leader among Virginia Baptists. Because of his vision, Columbia Baptist has extended its reach far beyond the traditional religious activities to include an array of intensive community services. Among them are:

World Friends, which provides English As A Second Language Instruction for more than 100 people each week.

Church and Community Ministries, which provides food, clothing, furniture, rent, and transportation to more than 500 people annually.

Columbia Child Development Center which provides Day Care for approximately 200 children on a year-round basis; Care-A-Van which at its peak delivered more than 200 meals weekly and served as a life line for many rescued from homelessness.

Counseling Ministry, which involves crisis prevention and crises prevention measures such as marriage preparation and parenting classes.

Columbia Institute of Fine Arts, which provides instruction to the community in fine arts.

In addition, Columbia Baptist facilities have become a vital resource for various community support groups including Alcoholics Anonymous, Survivors of Incest, Narcotics Anonymous, Alzheimer support groups, Alzheimer Day Care Program, Family Nurturing Training Program, Muscular Dystrophy and other support groups.

Columbia Baptist Church's other activities include working with local Police Departments to provide summer camps for children from disadvantaged areas, working with city and county agencies to provide a myriad of community services to the poor and disadvantaged, and fostering a sister relationship with the Baptists of Moscow before the days of normalized relationship. Furthermore, Columbia Baptist provides facilities for various community events including regional conferences on drug abuse and prevention, and mental health services related to aging, including the White House Conference on Aging in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in honoring Dr. Jones whose church has attracted the neediest downtrodden elements of our society along with diplomats, members of Congress, professional football coaches, and others who sought spiritual inspiration.

A TRIUMPH OF COMMON SENSE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, Washington, DC's, Metro deserves high praise for its steadfast resolve which resulted in a common sense agreement on its subway platform edges. Last year, the Department of Transportation insisted that Metro install costly platform edges with bumps in order to warn blind riders and comply with the Americans with Disabilities

Act. However, this huge expenditure would have resulted in little, if any, benefit. In fact, there was disagreement among the organizations representing the visually impaired about the merit of the platform edge requirement. This appeared to be yet another case of the Federal Government forcing compliance simply for the sake of compliance rather than making an effort to meet an actual need. On June 13, 1994, this Member wrote to Metro's general manager, Lawrence Reuter, to urge him to stand up to the DOT bureaucracy and fight for a practical solution. A copy of the letter was also sent to Transportation Secretary Federico Peña.

This Member is pleased that a reasonable agreement has now been reached between Metro and the Federal Transit Administration. Under the agreement, Metro will install a system of transmitters that will allow visually impaired riders wearing wrist beepers to be signaled when they are too close to the edge of the subway platform. This system will be much less expensive than the proposed bumpy platforms and should also provide a higher degree of safety. This Member also commends the Federal Transit Administration for finally demonstrating common sense and flexibility in arriving at this agreement. Too bad it took a confrontation to reach a common sense solution but sometimes that is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial in support of the agreement from the April 27, 1995, edition of the Washington Post.

METRO PLATFORMS: REASON PREVAILS

It had all the earmarks of a classic legal regulatory battle between a regional agency and the federal government: Metro General Manager Lawrence G. Reuter was bucking an order from the federal government under the Americans With Disabilities Act to rip out and replace all of its subway platform edges as a safety measure for blind riders. Comply or risk federal funding, said the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. It's too expensive and isn't needed on a system with a good safety record already, replied Mr. Reuter.

We'll sue, said DOT. We're not budging, said Metro, noting that there was a division of opinion among organizations representing people whose vision is impaired as to the usefulness, or potential additional hazards, of the federally mandated surfaces with raised bumps.

But now, after nearly a year of wrangling, bumpy edges are giving way to smooth solutions. The Clinton administration has backed away from its demand, settling instead for agreement by Metro to install a system of transmitters that will signal blind riders wearing wrist beepers that they are close to platform edges. Federal mass transit administrator Gordon J. Linton concluded that the regulation is "so narrow and prescriptive" that "there is not room to exercise judgment or discretion" and agreed to grant Metro's request for a "determination of equivalent facilitation" for the edges that are already along the platforms.

Translation: Score one for good sense. Instead of proceeding with expensive, time-

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